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Province of Alberta

The Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Wainwright By-election held April 8, 2002

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Alberta Legislative Assembly

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

May 31, 2002

Ms. Janis Tarchuk, Chairman
Standing Committee
on Legislative Offices
Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Ms. Tarchuk:

I have the privilege to enclose the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer concerning the Wainwright By-election held on Monday, April 8, 2002.

This Report is submitted pursuant to the provisions of Section 4(3) of the *Election Act*.

Should you require clarification or additional information on anything contained in this Report, I would be pleased to respond.

Sincerely,

O. Brian Fjeldheim
Chief Electoral Officer

Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2Y5
Ph: (780) 427-7191 Fax: (780) 422-2900 email: elections.alberta@gov.ab.ca

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Introduction

A vacancy was created in the Electoral Division of Wainwright by the resignation of Robert (Butch) Fischer on December 31, 2001.

The resulting by-election was held pursuant to the provisions of the *Election Act*, Chapter E-1 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000, including amendments. The electoral division boundaries described in the *Electoral Divisions Act*, proclaimed in force February 11, 1997, were used at the by-election.

List of Electors

The List of Electors was compiled from information contained in the Alberta Register of Electors. The Register had been updated during the 2000 Provincial General Confirmation, and in conjunction with the 2001 Provincial General Election. Vital Statistics data was used to remove deceased electors from the Register and increase the overall accuracy of the List of Electors.

Wainwright By-election

By order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, a Writ of Election, dated March 11, 2002, was issued by the Chief Electoral Officer to the Returning Officer, Suzanne Frissell, pursuant to Sections 39 and 40 of the *Election Act*.

Nomination Day was March 25, 2002, and Polling Day was April 8, 2002. Six candidates, each registered under the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, were nominated. Advance Polls were held on April 4, 5 and 6, 2002.

The Returning Officer announced the Official Results on April 18, 2002. Doug Griffiths, representing the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta, was declared duly elected. The Writ of Election and the Returning Officer's Certificate and Return, certifying Mr. Griffiths' election, were returned to the Chief Electoral Officer on April 18, 2002. No appeal for a judicial recount, or from any decision of the Returning Officer concerning any of the ballots, was applied for pursuant to Section 144 of the *Election Act*.

The Chief Electoral Officer arranged for the publication of the by-election return in the May 15, 2002 issue of the Alberta Gazette.

Nomination deposits were forfeited by four of the six candidates. The forfeited deposits, totalling $800, were paid through the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer to the Provincial Treasurer for deposit to the General Revenue Fund.

An overview of results indicating the total votes obtained by each candidate and a statement of results by poll are presented on pages 4 and 5. Maps of the electoral division of Wainwright are presented at page 5.

The total cost of the By-election was $57,709. A summary is included on page 10.

Registered candidates are required to file By-election Campaign Period Financial Statements with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, by August 8, 2002. These financial statements will list contributions, income from other sources, transfers of funds/materials and expenditures concerning the campaigns. The information, which pertains to candidates' election expenses, will be published in local newspapers in accordance with Section 4(1)(d) of the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*.

Registered political parties which participated must file audited financial statements by October 8, 2002. These financial statements will list contributions, income from other sources, transfers of funds/materials and expenditures concerning the campaigns. In accordance with Section 11 of the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, all financial statements will be available for inspection in the public files maintained by the Chief Electoral Officer and pertinent data will be published in the Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for the 2002 calendar year.

Elector Feedback

A client satisfaction survey was completed at two polling places containing multiple polling stations. Electors were chosen at random and asked to comment on various aspects of the election experience.

The results of the small test group were favourable in all respects. Survey results revealed:

- election officers were regarded as being both courteous and knowledgeable;
- a significant majority of electors determined where to vote by the advertisements placed in local newspapers;
- polling place locations and hours of operation were convenient to the majority of electors; and
- the majority of electors on the List of Electors waited less than one minute to receive a ballot.

Electors who were not on the List of Electors had to complete an Oath prior to voting and, therefore, waited longer to receive a ballot. Those electors did not respond as favourably as did the electors whose names appeared on the List. Two areas for continuous improvement will be maximizing the accuracy of the List of Electors and streamlining the Polling Day registration process.

Overall, customer satisfaction was high and electors were pleased to provide feedback. It is likely that similar surveys will be conducted in the future as an ongoing quality assurance measure.

Wainwright By-election - Overview of Results

Candidate Political Affiliation *(Elected)	Valid Ballots Received	Percentage of Valid Ballots
Jerry D. **BARBER** Alberta First Party (AFP)	1,695	25.9
Colleen **BIGGS** Alberta Greens (AG)	73	1.1
*Doug **GRIFFITHS** Progressive Conservative (PC)	2,924	44.6
Lilas **LYSNE** Alberta New Democrats (NDP)	227	3.5
Horst **SCHREIBER** Alberta Liberal (LIB)	1,114	17.0
Robin **SKITTERAL** Alberta Social Credit Party (SC)	519	7.9
Total Valid Ballots Counted	6,552	

- Total Names on List of Electors** 19,563
- Total Valid Ballots Counted 6,552
- Total Ballots Rejected and Declined 12
- Total Ballots Cast 6,564
- Percent Voter Turnout 33.6%

**This represents the total number of names on the List of Electors at the close of polls on Polling Day. It includes electors who were added during the Revisions Period and those who were sworn in at the polls.

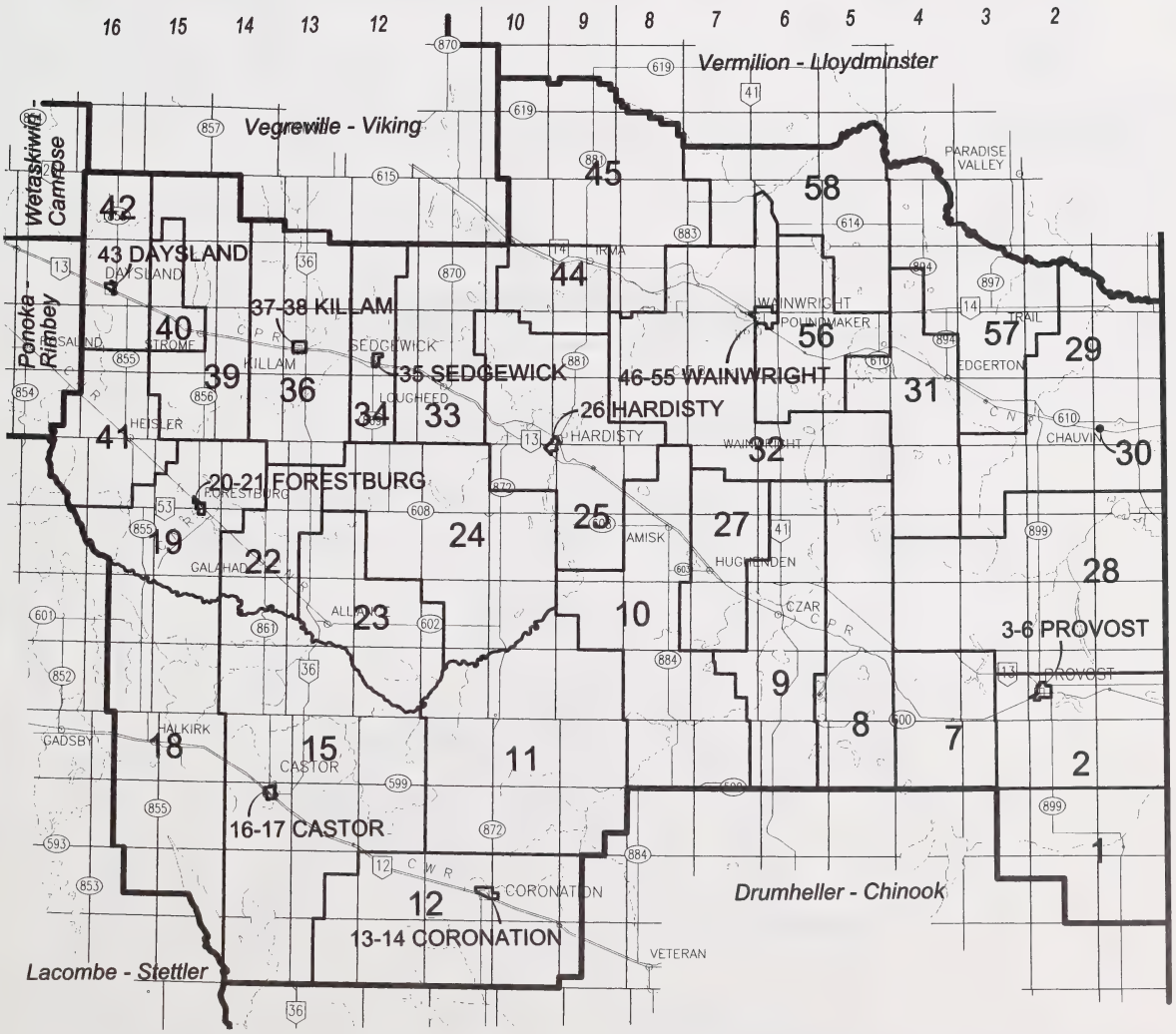
Electoral Division of Wainwright
Statement of Official Results - April 8, 2002 By-election

POLL NUMBER	NAME OF POLL	NAMES ON LIST	BARBER JERRY D. AFP	BIGGS COLLEEN AG	GRIFFITHS DOUG PC	LYSNE LILAS NDP	SCHREIBER HORST LIB	SKITTERAL ROBIN SC	V	S	D	R	% VOTER TURNOUT
01	Bodo	157	10	0	26	0	7	5	48	0	0	0	30.6
02	Hayter	286	14	0	26	1	16	9	66	0	0	0	23.1
03	Provost NW	463	19	1	43	0	28	13	104	0	0	0	22.5
04	Provost NE	275	11	0	49	2	16	9	87	0	0	0	31.6
05	Provost SE	332	19	3	28	0	13	6	69	0	0	0	20.8
06	Provost SW	249	13	3	11	3	11	3	44	0	0	0	17.7
07	Cadogan	225	32	0	22	0	4	18	76	0	0	0	33.8
08	Metiskow	127	15	2	17	0	6	4	44	0	0	0	34.6
09	Czar & Rural	318	56	0	58	4	21	8	147	0	0	0	46.2
10	Amisk South	350	61	0	59	1	11	7	139	0	0	0	39.7
11	Brownfield	334	12	4	111	0	6	6	139	0	0	0	41.6
12	Coronation Rural	309	9	1	124	2	8	1	145	0	0	0	46.9
13	Coronation West	336	6	1	117	2	3	1	130	0	0	1	39.0
14	Coronation East	358	13	0	110	3	6	4	136	0	0	1	38.3
15	Castor District	459	19	2	105	12	13	5	156	0	0	0	34.0
16	Castor NW	355	11	1	82	3	20	7	124	0	0	0	34.9
17	Castor SE	357	7	1	65	3	15	13	104	0	0	0	29.1
18	Halkirk	300	13	1	49	2	4	6	75	0	0	0	25.0
19	Forestburg Rural	263	20	1	28	5	25	5	84	0	0	0	31.9
20	Forestburg East	308	12	0	23	13	28	6	82	1	0	0	26.6
21	Forestburg West	328	20	0	41	13	17	9	100	0	0	0	30.5
22	Galahad	253	16	5	35	1	36	4	97	0	0	0	38.3
23	Alliance	289	12	0	57	2	17	13	101	0	0	0	34.9
24	Bellshill	279	15	2	27	1	24	5	74	0	0	0	26.5
25	Hardisty Rosyth	398	50	1	40	5	21	4	121	0	0	0	30.4
26	Hardisty	427	45	1	36	7	18	12	119	0	0	0	27.9
27	Hughenden	354	45	0	41	7	25	2	120	0	0	0	33.9
28	Greenglade	367	26	4	61	2	11	6	110	0	0	0	30.0
29	Chauvin Rural	359	35	1	34	6	11	5	92	0	0	0	25.6
30	Chauvin	254	22	1	14	4	3	18	62	0	0	0	24.4
31	Edgerton & Rural	471	50	0	64	8	18	16	156	0	0	0	33.1
32	Denwood/Fabyan	486	43	4	31	0	2	4	84	0	0	0	17.3
33	Lougheed	384	38	1	69	6	30	5	149	0	0	0	38.8
34	Sedgewick Rural	370	17	1	29	5	23	4	79	0	0	0	21.4
35	Sedgewick	442	35	1	54	3	24	3	120	0	0	0	27.1
36	Killam Rural	329	24	1	51	4	28	3	111	0	0	0	33.7
37	Killam West	320	4	0	65	2	38	6	115	0	0	0	35.9
38	Killam East	375	18	0	62	7	12	6	105	0	0	0	28.0
39	Strome East	246	10	1	31	1	18	2	63	0	0	0	25.6
40	Strome West	256	5	0	32	1	35	4	77	0	0	0	30.1
41	Heisler	327	7	1	61	2	38	4	113	0	0	0	34.6
42	Daysland West/Rural	423	17	1	36	5	75	7	141	0	0	0	33.3
43	Daysland	342	7	0	36	2	35	8	88	0	0	0	25.7
44	Irma South	446	180	2	43	3	10	12	250	0	0	0	56.1
45	Rural Irma East	405	72	0	48	2	5	4	131	0	0	0	32.3
46	Wainwright A	302	23	0	15	1	11	18	68	0	0	0	22.5
47	Wainwright B	335	38	0	31	4	11	15	99	0	0	1	29.9
48	Wainwright C	300	16	1	28	8	7	21	81	0	0	1	27.3
49	Wainwright D	441	48	1	35	6	11	24	125	0	0	0	28.3
50	Wainwright E	386	26	0	23	3	14	13	79	0	0	0	20.5
51	Wainwright F	329	31	0	30	2	10	20	93	0	0	0	28.3
52	Wainwright G	365	17	1	34	1	25	5	83	0	0	0	22.7
53	Wainwright H	404	41	1	53	3	28	14	140	0	0	0	34.7
54	Wainwright J	380	22	2	45	1	21	19	110	0	0	0	28.9
55	Wainwright K	337	44	0	49	3	33	6	135	0	0	0	40.1
56	Wainwright SW	426	77	3	75	5	19	6	185	0	0	1	43.7
57	Edgerton East	208	32	5	28	5	4	12	86	0	0	0	41.3
58	Giltedge	259	18	0	30	1	7	2	58	0	0	0	22.4

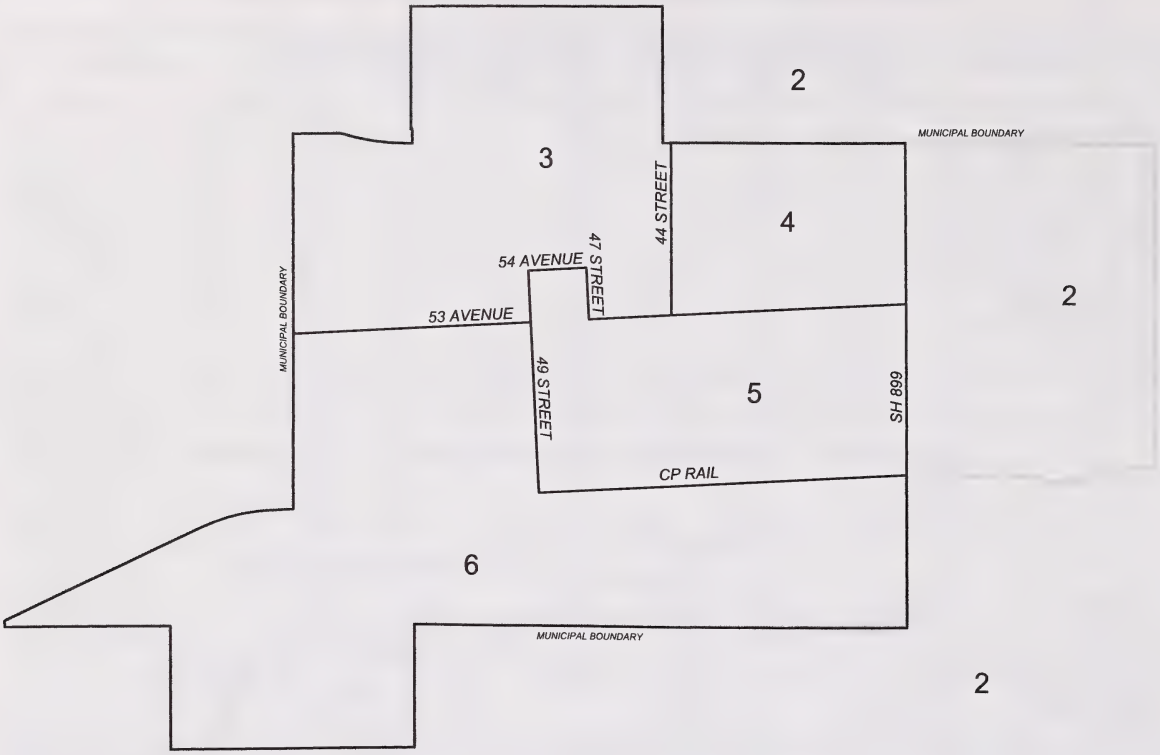
Electoral Division of Wainwright
Statement of Official Results - April 8, 2002 By-election

POLL NUMBER	NAME OF POLL	NAMES ON LIST	BARBER JERRY D. AFP	BIGGS COLLEEN AG	GRIFFITHS DOUG PC	LYSNE LILAS NDP	SCHREIBER HORST LIB	SKITTERAL ROBIN SC	V	S	D	R	% VOTER TURNOUT
59	Advance - Castor	0	5	0	21	0	5	2	33	0	0	0	
60	Advance - Killam	0	6	0	12	0	8	2	28	0	0	0	
61	Advance - Provost	0	8	1	17	3	10	4	43	0	0	0	
62	Advance - Wainwright	0	29	0	16	2	14	5	66	0	0	0	
63	Mobile - Coronation/Castor	0	1	3	34	6	4	9	57	0	0	1	
64	Mobile - Daysland/Galahad	0	0	1	22	10	20	2	55	0	0	1	
65	Mobile - Hardisty/Killam	0	7	2	23	3	5	4	44	1	0	0	
66	Mobile - Provost	0	5	2	15	3	4	6	35	0	0	1	
67	Mobile - Wainwright	0	15	1	34	2	8	8	68	0	0	4	
68	Special	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	
	TOTAL	**19,563**	**1,695**	**73**	**2,924**	**227**	**1,114**	**519**	**6,552**	**2**	**0**	**12**	**33.6**

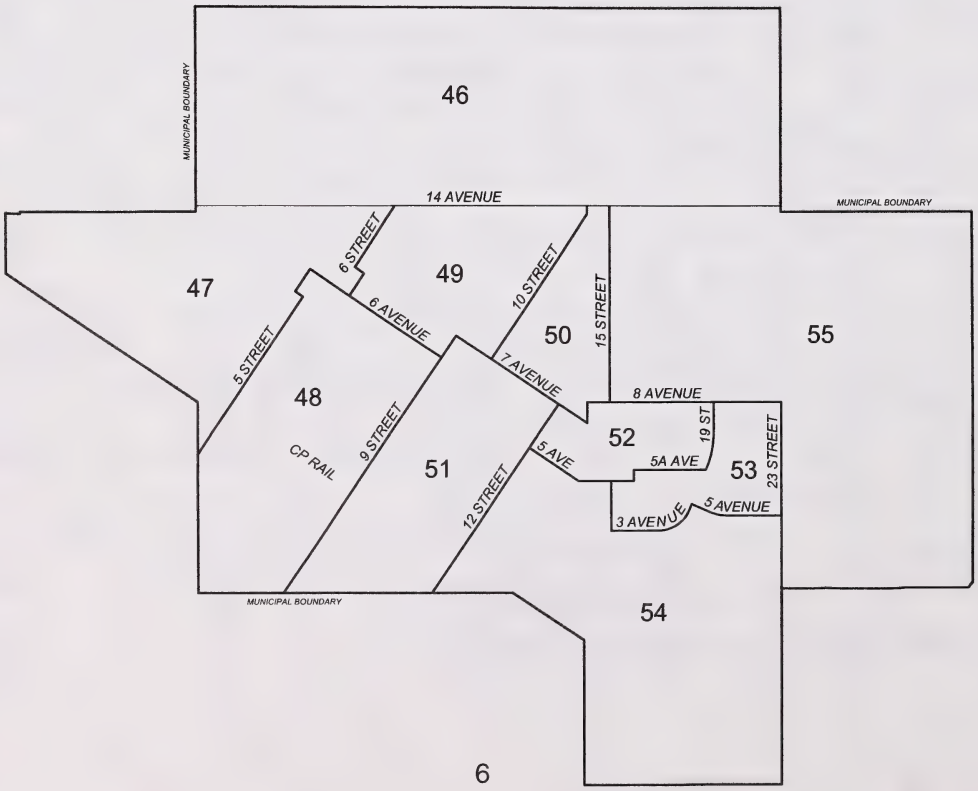
V = Valid Ballots S = Spoiled Ballots D = Declined Ballots R = Rejected Ballots



TOWN OF PROVOST



TOWN OF WAINWRIGHT



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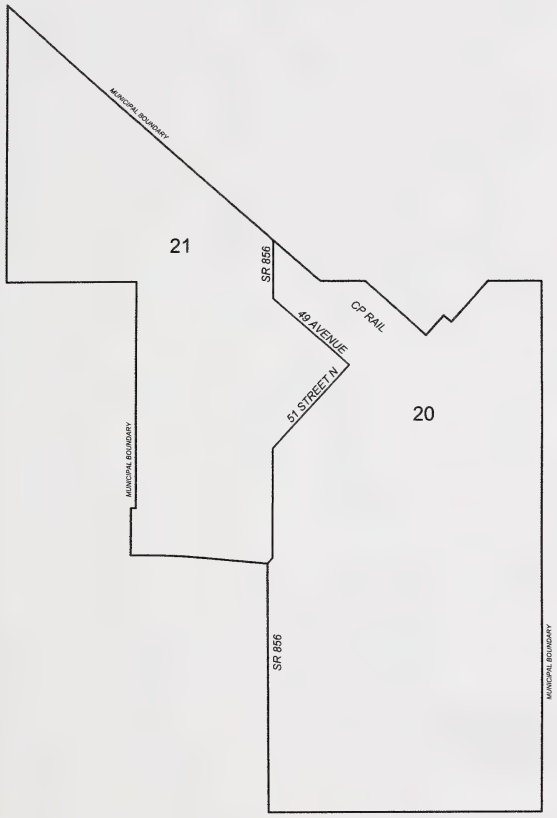

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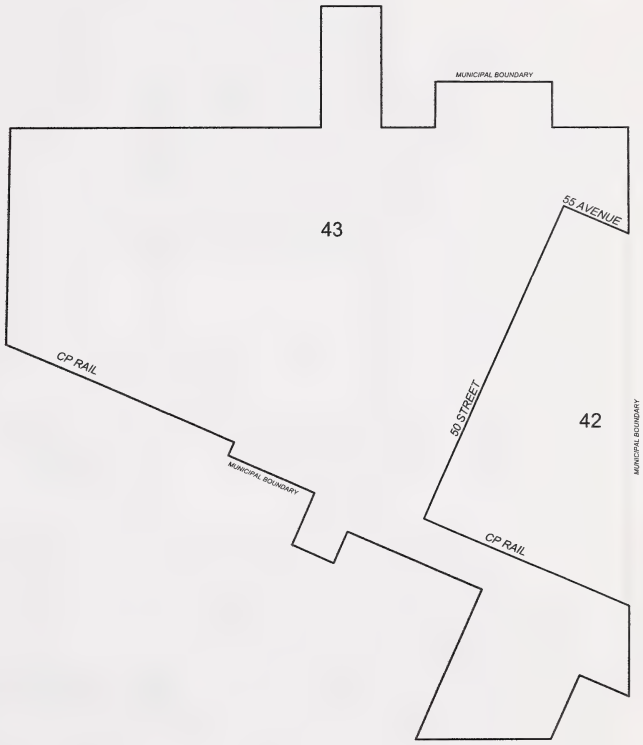
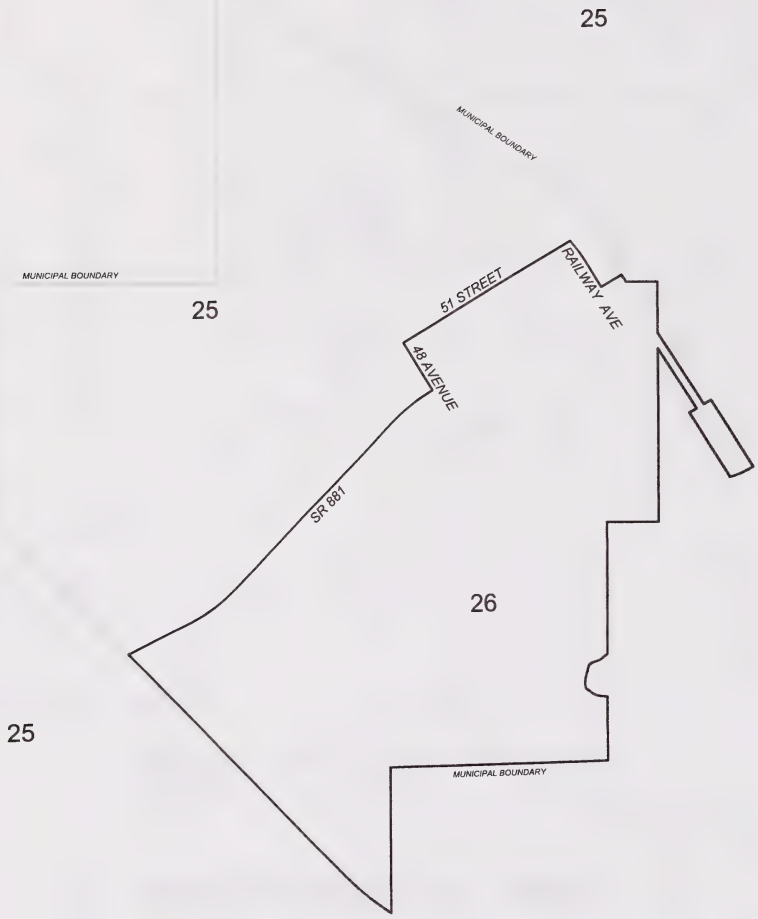


TOWN OF CORONATION

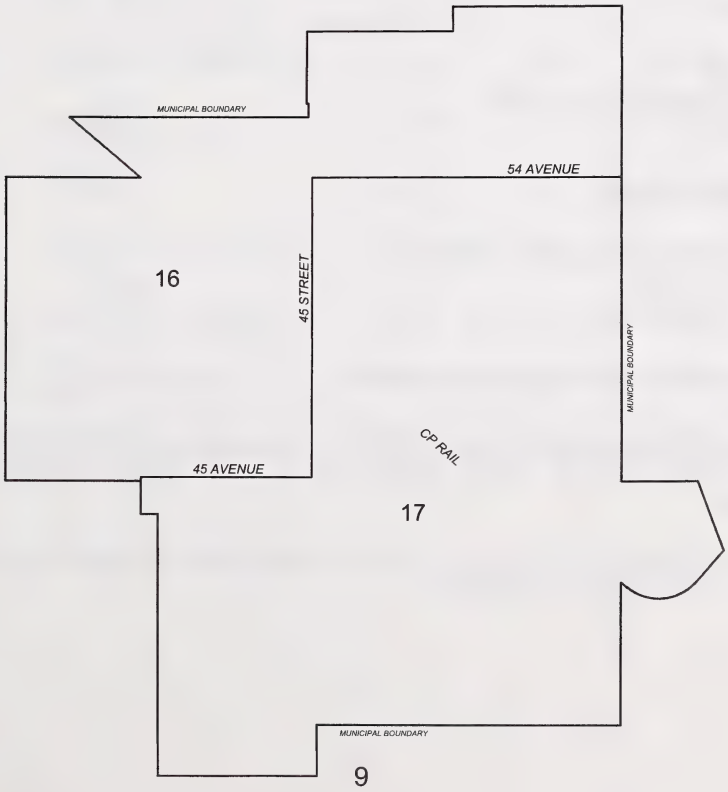
TOWN OF HARDISTY



TOWN OF KILLAM

TOWN OF SEDGEWICK

TOWN OF CASTOR



Wainwright By-election
Financial Summary

Returning Officer		
Fees	$ 7,999	
Travel	138	
Office Rental	1,250	
Telephone	709	
Advertising	6,704	
Printing	1,600	
Miscellaneous & Freight	551	$ 18,951
Election Clerk		
Fees	5,793	
Travel & Miscellaneous	198	5,991
Supervisory Deputy Returning Officers		
Fees	500	
Travel	111	611
Deputy Returning Officers		
Fees	15,510	
Travel	2,265	17,775
Poll Clerks		
Fees	10,125	
Travel	155	10,280
Support Staff		
Administrative/Office Staff	241	
Travel	216	457
Polling Place Rentals		2,440
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer		
List of Electors	281	
By-election Report	923	1,204
Total Cost of the Wainwright By-election		$ 57,709

Note: Most election supplies were acquired from warehouse inventory on hand at the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. These were originally stocked for the 2001 General Election.

Due to the timing of this report, the cost of advertising candidate expenditures is not included in the financial summary.

Comparative Statistics – By-elections 1979 – 2002

Overall Summary of Ballots Cast and Percentage of Voter Turnout

Election Date	Electoral Division	Valid Ballots	Rejected/ Declined Ballots	Ballots Cast	Names on List	Voter Turnout
April 8, 2002	Wainwright	6,552	12	6,564	19,563	33.6%
September 25, 2000	Red Deer-North	4,150	7	4,157	20,409	20.4%
June 12, 2000	Edmonton-Highlands	8,237	28	8,265	19,714	41.9%
June 17, 1996	Edmonton-McClung	9,406	10	9,416	23,094	40.8%
May 21, 1996	Redwater	8,680	20	8,700	19,130	45.5%
April 20, 1995	Calgary-McCall	5,720	17	5,737	20,514	28.0%
October 26, 1992	Three Hills	10,337	34	10,371	17,736	58.5%
July 21, 1992	Calgary-Buffalo	8,602	47	8,649	26,029	33.2%
March 5, 1992	Little Bow	5,585	18	5,603	9,158	61.2%
December 17, 1990	Edmonton-Strathcona	9,339	24	9,363	19,252	48.6%
May 9, 1989	Stettler	7,789	15	7,804	11,618	67.2%
November 23, 1987	Chinook	5,441	9	5,450	10,149	53.7%
December 11, 1985	Edmonton-Whitemud	9,900	10	9,910	30,082	32.9%
February 21, 1985	Spirit-River-Fairview	6,839	11	6,850	10,545	65.0%
February 17, 1982	Olds-Didsbury	9,523	10	9,533	13,798	69.1%
November 21, 1979	Barrhead	6,342	29	6,371	11,409	55.8%

Comparative Statistics by Elections 1979 – 2002

Financial Summary

Overall Summary of Ballots Cast and Percentage of Voter Turnout

Election Date	Electoral Division	Valid Ballots	Rejected/ Declined Ballots	Ballots Issued	Names on the List	Voter Turnout
April 8, 2002	Wainwright	6,552	12	6,564	20,803	31.6%
September 25, 2000	Red Deer-North	4,180	7	4,187	20,409	20.5%
June 12, 2000	Edmonton-Highlands	8,237	28	8,265	20,174	41.0%
June 17, 1996	Edmonton-McClung	8,405	10	8,415	23,004	36.6%
May 21, 1993	Redwater	8,680	20	8,700	13,180	66.0%
April 20, 1993	Calgary-McCall	6,720	17	6,737	29,614	22.8%
October 26, 1992	Three Hills	10,337	34	10,371	17,730	58.5%
July 21, 1992	Calgary-Buffalo	8,602	47	8,649	26,929	32.2%
March 5, 1992	Lethbridge-West	5,645	18	5,663	13,168	43.0%
December 17, 1990	Edmonton-Strathcona	9,339	24	9,363	18,272	51.2%
May 9, 1989	Stettler	7,763	15	7,778	9,618	80.9%
November 29, 1987	Chinook	5,447	9	5,456	10,446	52.2%
December 11, 1986	Edmonton-Whitemud	9,920	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	32.0%
February 24, 1986	Spirit River-Fairview	6,830	11	6,841	10,345	66.0%
February 24, 1986	Olds-Didsbury	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
November 21, 1979	Edmonton	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Chief Electoral Officer. These were originally produced for the 2001 General Election.

Due to the timing of the report, the cost of save-deposit candidate expenses is not included in the financial summary.

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